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imagery analysis report

First Observation of an SA-11 Field Exercise at Emba MTC, USSR (S)



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Z-14574/82
IAR-0056/82
MAY 1982
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FIRST OBSERVATION OF AN SA-11 FIELD EXERCISE AT EMBA MTC, USSR (S)

1. (S/WN) On [] elements of an SA-11 surface-to-air missile (SAM) regiment were engaged in a field exercise northwest of Support Area A [] at Emba Missile Test Center [] Figure 1), USSR. Eight SA-11 transporter-erector-launcher and radars (TELARs; one shown on Figure 2), two SA-11 transloaders (one shown on Figure 3), one probable SA-11 TELAR, one SA-11 command vehicle (Figure 4), and one EM-EL-03 long-range acquisition radar (Figure 5) were present (Figure 6). This is the first time that an SA-11 field exercise has been seen at Emba.

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2. (S/WN) Preparations for the SA-11 field exercise were first observed on [] when ten support vehicles, one SA-11 resupply vehicle, and an unidentified tracked vehicle were bivouacked in a fenced parking area adjacent to the housing area at the Emba Missile Test Center (MTC) Operations Support Area []. This is the first time that this unidentified tracked vehicle has been seen with SA-11 equipment either at the operations support area or the Emba MTC Launch Complex []. The vehicle measured [].

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3. (S/WN) By [] additional elements of an SA-11 regiment had been moved to this bivouac area (Figure 7) from the SA-6/-11 system training and checkout area at the operations support area. Twelve SA-11 TELARs, three SA-11 transloaders, one SA-11 command vehicle, one SA-11 resupply vehicle, and one EM-EL-03 radar were present, in addition to the equipment previously in this bivouac area on []. An SA-11 resupply vehicle was being loaded with SA-11 canisters at the SA-11 canister storage area. This resupply operation was probably in support of the [] field exercise.

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IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS

4. (S/WN) The SA-11 equipment seen in the bivouac area on [] was probably also at the SA-11 field exercise on []. The SA-11 canister resupply operation underway in the operations support area on [] probably provided the SA-11 missiles that were on the two SA-11 transloaders in the exercise. This activity and the presence of SA-11 missiles on the SA-11 transloaders suggest that a live-fire field exercise may have occurred.

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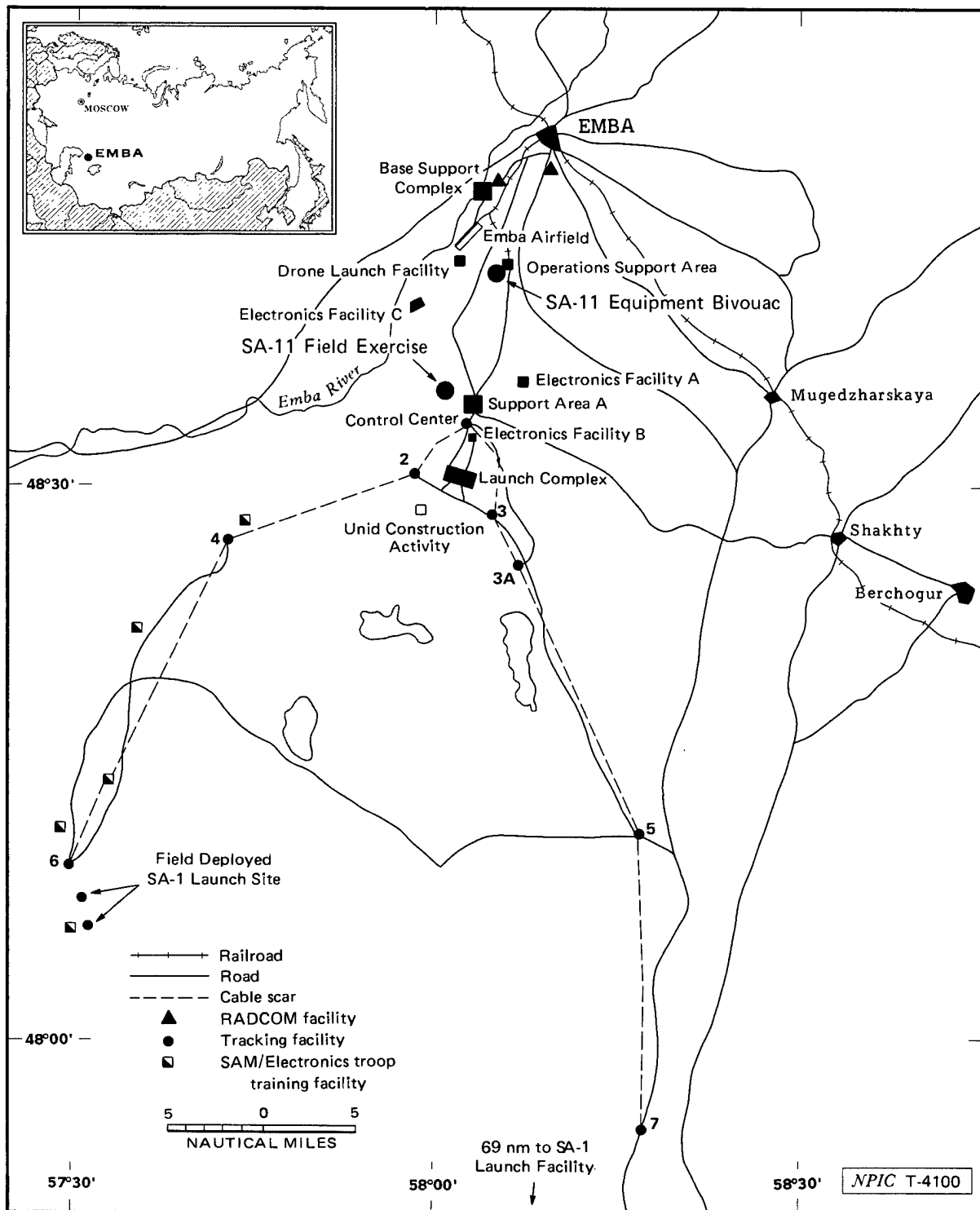
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5. (S/WN) Analysis of the SA-11 bivouac area on [] and the field exercise on [] still does not provide a firm table of organization (T/O) for an SA-11 regiment. The likely organization would follow that of the three most recently deployed tactical SAM systems—the SA-6, SA-8, and SA-6B. Twenty transporter-erector-launchers (TELs)/transporter-launcher and radars (TLARs)/TELARs were deployed per regiment, with each regiment containing five batteries of four TELs/TLARs/TELARs. The presence of 20 SA-11 TELARs in the operations support area since late 1981 indicates that this may be the T/O. The 12-TELAR bivouacs seen on [] may compose three, four-TELAR batteries of an SA-11 regiment. Other T/Os are also possible. Because the SA-11 system provides an increased number of missiles per TELAR over the SA-6 and SA-6B systems (four versus three), 20 TELARs may not be needed. One possibility is a 12-TELAR battalion/regiment consisting of three batteries of four TELARs or four batteries of three TELARs. Only 12 SA-11 TELARs were present at the bivouac area, and probably the same number were at the

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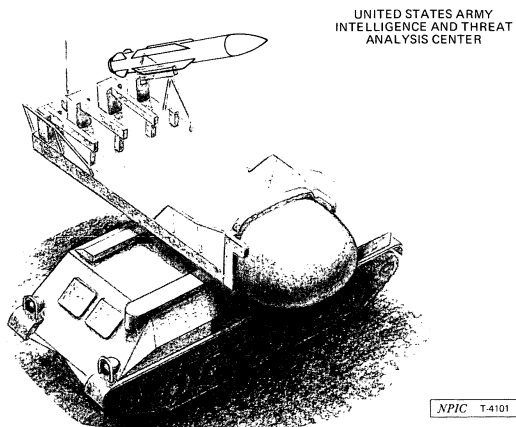


FIGURE 2. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF SA-11 TELAR

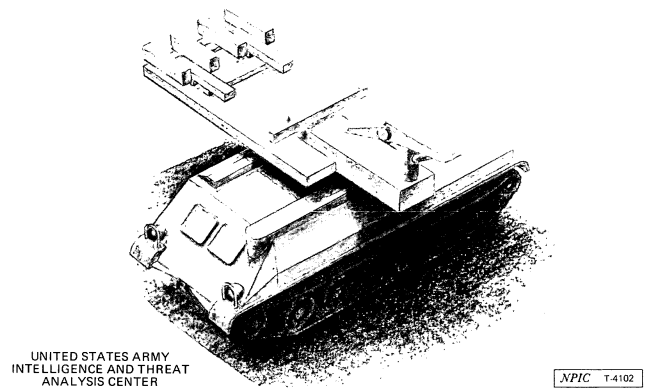


FIGURE 3. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF SA-11 TRANSLOADER

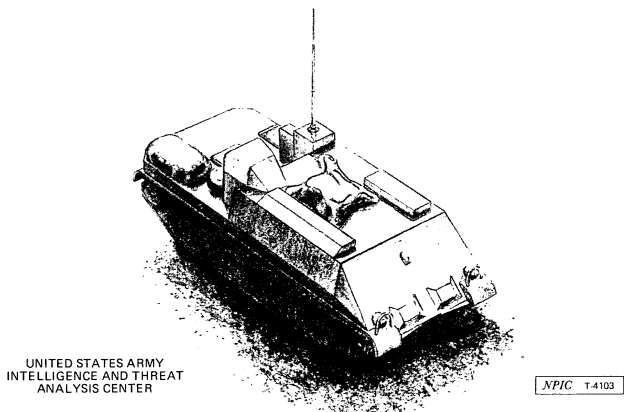


FIGURE 4. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF SA-11 COMMAND VEHICLE

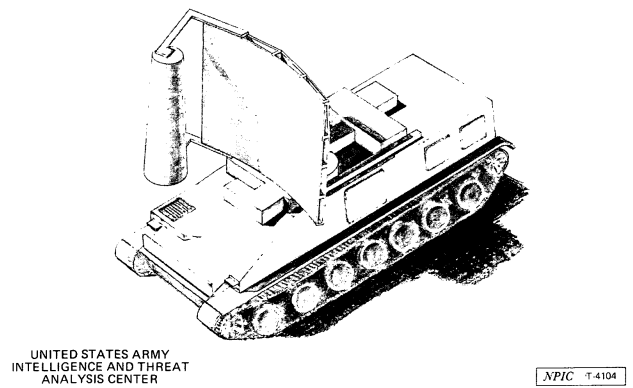


FIGURE 5. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF EM-EL-03 RADAR

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field exercise. The presence of only one EM-EL-03 radar at both locations suggests that this radar will not be deployed at the battery level but instead will be used, in small numbers, only at the regimental level.

6. (S/WN) The SA-11 equipment that was used in the field exercise was deployed along a front of approximately 2,000 meters. The SA-11 command vehicle, which may receive information by data link from the EM-EL-03 radar and then relay it to the SA-11 battery, was 1,233 meters from the EM-EL-03 radar, which suggests that the two vehicles are not cable connected. The distance separating the SA-11 TELARs varied from 200 to 700 meters. This deployment pattern is similar to that of the TELs in an SA-6 battery. However, additional SA-11 field deployments must be analyzed to determine if the deployment and T/O in the [] exercise is repeated.

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7. (S/WN) The SA-11 system, evaluated as a follow-on system to the SA-6, was in the final stage of training at Emba. The system probably will be operationally deployed this year.

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IMAGERY

(S/WN) All applicable satellite imagery acquired through [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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